

CLAIMS

The invention claimed is:

1. A method for providing information over a communications network to a computer user, said method comprising:

gathering a plurality of information items relating to a subject, said information items including data items and content items, wherein each of said data items includes the value of an attribute associated with said subject for a particular date and each of said content items includes a statement summarizing an occurrence for a particular date;

storing said information items; and

creating an electronic page containing in part a graphic representation that includes a number of data points corresponding to at least a portion of said data items, said data points arranged by date or date range.

2. The method of claim 1 further including assigning a reliability factor to each of said content items.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said reliability indicators are different colors.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said reliability indicators are different numbers.

5. The method of claim 2 wherein said reliability indicators are different typeface.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein said reliability indicators are different letters.

7. The method of claim 2 wherein said information items and said reliability indicators are stored in a data storage module.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein said information items and said reliability indicators are stored in a database.

9. The method of claim 2 further including
receiving a selection of a data point; and
providing a display containing the content items associated with the
corresponding date or date range of the data point and the reliability indicators
assigned to said content items.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein said information items are gathered from a plurality of sources.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said sources include newspapers, wire services, magazines, trade journals, publicly available government documents, web casts, and web sites.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said reliability indicators are determined by the source of the content item.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said reliability indicators are automatically assigned depending upon the source of said content item.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein said subject is a company.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said attributes include the share price for said company.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein said attributes include the share trading volume for said company.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein said occurrences include the publication of an article concerning said subject.

18. The method of claim 1 wherein said occurrences include publication of a document concerning said subject.

19. The method of claim 1 wherein said content items further include a reference to the source of said content item.

20. The method of claim 1 further including reviewing said content items for accuracy.

21. The method of claim 1 wherein said graphic representation is a bar chart.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein said graphic representation is a graph.

23. The method of claim 1 further including receiving a request from said computer user for information items concerning said subject.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein said request includes a date range.

25. The method of claim 1 further including transmitting said electronic page to said computer user.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein said electronic page contains all of the content items and reliability indicators that may be displayed when a data point is selected.

27. The method of claim 25 wherein said electronic page does not include content items and wherein said selection of a data point causes the content items associated with the date of said data point and the reliability indicators assigned to said content items to be transmitted to said computer user for display.

28. The method of claim 1 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

29. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

30. A system in a computer environment for providing information over a communications network to a computer user, said system comprising:

a data storage module operable to store information items relating to a subject, said information items including data items and content items, wherein each of said data items includes the value of an attribute associated with said subject for a particular date and each of said content items includes a statement summarizing an occurrence for a particular date;

a chart engine operable to create an electronic page containing in part a graphic representation that includes a number of data points corresponding to at

least a portion of said data items, said data points arranged by date or date range;

and

a communications module operable to receive communication from a computer user and to transmit said electronic page to said computer user.

31. The system of claim 30 wherein said data storage module is further operable to store a reliability factor assigned to each of said content items.

32. The system of claim 31 wherein upon selection of a data point said chart engine is further operable to cause the display of the content items associated with the corresponding date or date range of the data point and the reliability indicators assigned to said content items.

33. The system of claim 30 wherein said data storage module is a database.

34. The system of claim 30 wherein said communication received from said computer user includes a request for information items concerning said subject.

35. The system of claim 34 wherein said communication includes a date range.

36. The system of claim 30 wherein said subject is a company.

37. The system of claim 36 wherein said attributes include the share price for said company.

38. The system of claim 36 wherein said attributes include the share trading volume for said company.

39. The system of claim 30 wherein said graphic representation is a bar chart.

40. The system of claim 30 wherein said graphic representation is a graph.

41. The system of claim 30 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

42. A method for providing information over a communications network to a computer user, said method comprising:

receiving a plurality of information items relating to a subject, said information items including data items and content items, wherein each of said data items includes the value of an attribute associated with said subject for a particular date and each of said content items includes a statement summarizing an occurrence for a particular date;

storing said information items; and

creating an electronic page containing in part a graphic representation that includes a number of data points corresponding to at least a portion of said data items, said data points arranged by date or date range.

43. The method of claim 42 further including receiving reliability factor for each of said content items.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein said reliability indicators are different colors.

45. The method of claim 43 wherein said reliability indicators are different numbers.

46. The method of claim 43 wherein said reliability indicators are different typeface.

47. The method of claim 43 wherein said reliability indicators are different letters.

48. The method of claim 43 wherein said information items and said reliability indicators are stored in a data storage module.

49. The method of claim 43 wherein said information items and said reliability indicators are stored in a database.

50. The method of claim 43 further including
receiving a selection of a data point; and
providing a display of the content items associated with the corresponding date or date range of the data point and the reliability indicators assigned to said content items.

51. The method of claim 42 wherein said subject is a company.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein said attributes include the share price for said company.

53. The method of claim 51 wherein said attributes include the share trading volume for said company.

54. The method of claim 42 wherein said occurrences include the publication of an article concerning said subject.

55. The method of claim 42 wherein said occurrences include publication of a document concerning said subject.

56. The method of claim 42 wherein said content items further include a reference to the source of said content item.

57. The method of claim 42 wherein said graphic representation is a bar chart.

58. The method of claim 42 wherein said graphic representation is a graph.

59. The method of claim 42 further including receiving a request from said computer user for information items concerning said subject.

60. The method of claim 59 wherein said request includes a date range.

61. The method of claim 42 further including transmitting said electronic page to said computer user.

62. The method of claim 61 wherein said electronic page contains all of the content items and reliability indicators that may be displayed when a data point is selected.

63. The method of claim 61 wherein said electronic page does not include content items and wherein said selection of a data point causes the content items associated with the date of said data point and the reliability indicators assigned to said content items to be transmitted to said computer user for display.

64. The method of claim 42 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

65. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 42.

66. A method of providing information to a computer user, said information including data items and content items, said data items including a value associated with a particular date, said content items including text associated with a particular date, said method comprising:

creating a first electronic page containing a graphic representation that includes a number of data points with each of said data points corresponding to a specific date or date range and corresponding to said data items associated with said date or said date range;

providing said first electronic page to said computer user;

receiving a selection of a data point;

creating a second electronic page containing said content items associated with the date or date range of the data point; and

providing said second electronic page to said computer user.

67. The method of claim 66 further including obtaining said data items and said content items from a database.

68. The method of claim 66 wherein said step of providing said first electronic page to said computer user includes transmitting said first electronic page over a communications network to said computer user.

69. The method of claim 68 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

70. The method of claim 68 wherein said step of providing said second electronic page to said computer user includes transmitting said second electronic page over a communications network to said computer user.

71. The method of claim 70 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

72. The method of claim 66 wherein said value is the stock price for a company.

73. The method of claim 66 wherein said value is the share trading volume for a company.

74. The method of claim 66 wherein said graphic representation is a bar chart.

75. The method of claim 66 wherein said graphic representation is a graph.

76. The method of claim 66 further including receiving a request for said first electronic page from said computer user.

77. The method of claim 66 wherein said first electronic page is a Web page.

78. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 66.

79. A method for providing investment information over a communications network to a computer user, said method comprising:

gathering a plurality of information items relating to a company, said information items including data items and content items, wherein said data items

include the share price and the trading volume for said company for a particular date and each of said content items includes a summary of a document or article published on a particular date;

assigning a reliability factor to each of said content items;

storing said information items;

establishing a subscription for said computer user;

receiving a request from said computer user for information items concerning said corporation;

creating an electronic page containing in part a share price chart having a number of data points corresponding to the share price for a date or date range and a trading volume chart having a number of data points corresponding to the trading volume for a date or date range; and

transmitting said electronic page to said computer.

80. The method of claim 79 further comprising:

receiving a selection of a data point; and

providing a display containing the content items associated with the corresponding date or date range of the data point and the reliability indicators assigned to said content items.

81. The method of claim 79 wherein said reliability indicators are different colors.

82. The method of claim 79 wherein said reliability indicators are different numbers.

83. The method of claim 79 wherein said reliability indicators are different typeface.

84. The method of claim 79 wherein said reliability indicators are different letters.

85. The method of claim 79 wherein said step of establishing a subscription for said computer user includes:

receiving personal information from said computer user, said personal information including said a name; and

receiving payment information from said computer user.

86. The method of claim 85 further comprising verifying said payment information.

87. The method of claim 85 further comprising utilizing said payment information to obtain payment.

88. The method of claim 79 wherein said information items and said reliability indicators are stored in a database.

89. The method of claim 79 wherein said information items are gathered from a plurality of sources.

90. The method of claim 89 wherein said sources include newspapers, wire services, magazines, trade journals and publicly available government documents.

91. The method of claim 89 wherein said reliability indicators are determined by the source of the content item.

92. The method of claim 89 wherein said reliability indicators are automatically assigned depending upon the source of said content item.

93. The method of claim 79 wherein said content items further include a reference to the source of said content item.

94. The method of claim 79 further including reviewing said content items for accuracy.

95. The method of claim 79 wherein said request for information items concerning said corporation includes a date range.

96. The method of claim 79 wherein said electronic page contains all of the content items and reliability indicators that may be displayed when a data point is selected.

97. The method of claim 79 wherein said electronic page does not include content items and wherein said selection of a data point causes the content items associated with the date of said data point and the reliability indicators assigned to said content items to be transmitted to said computer user for display.

98. The method of claim 79 wherein said communications network is the Internet.

99. A computer readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 79.